

1943

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Carmarthen Urban Sanitary Authority

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# 71st Annual Report

OF THE

**Sanitary Conditions of the County of the  
Borough of Carmarthen**

BY

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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CARMARTHEN.

Printed by W. Spurrell & Son, King Street

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.**

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### **Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :**

Elfyn T. Jones, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### **Clerk to the County of the Borough of Carmarthen :**

Howard B. White, Esq.

### **Borough Engineer and Surveyor :**

G. L. Ovens, M.I.M., C.E.

### **Ophthalmic Surgeon :**

J. J. Healy, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

### **Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon :**

C. P. Robinson, F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

### **School Dental Surgeon :**

Gwilym Evans, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

### **Obstetrical Consultant :**

Dr. Lloyd Davies, M.D., F.R.C.S.

### **Sanitary Inspector :**

E. W. Francis, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

### **Shops Inspector :**

James Evans, C.R.S.I.

### **Veterinary Surgeon :**

T. R. Thomas, M.R.C.V.S.

### **Food and Drugs Inspector :**

D. Roderick, Chief Inspector.

### **Health Visitor and School Nurse :**

Octavia Davies, C.M.B.

### **Dental Nurse and L.C.C. School Nurse :**

M. F. Phillips, S.R.N., C.M.B.

### **Clerks to the Medical Officer of Health :**

G. Griffiths.

W. Evans (Resigned 17/7/43).

J. C. Jones (Commenced duties 26/7/43).

## PREFACE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council of the  
Borough of Carmarthen.

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending  
December 31st, 1943, which is in the form suggested by Circular  
10/44 (Wales).

It is interesting to note that in the fifth year of War, despite  
an increased birth-rate, the death-rate of infants has been markedly  
lowered. For this result the social services together with the  
measures adopted by the Ministry of Health in conjunction with  
the Ministry of Food must bear a large part of the credit, e.g.  
Vitamin Scheme for children and expectant mothers; Priority  
Milk supplied to infants and mothers; Continuance of Child  
Welfare Centres.

In the Post-War Reconstruction Period I urge the Council  
to accord to Housing, Water Supply and Housing of Tuberculous  
Patients an equal priority.

I wish to thank my colleagues and their staffs for their  
continued co-operation and help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ELFYN T. JONES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Carmarthen Urban District Authority is comprised of the Parish of St. Peter's and is 5,223 acres in extent. The area is largely rural and is undeveloped.

The rateable value of the Borough is £62,575, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £250.

### Vital Statistics.

				Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	}	Legitimate	...	183	96	87	
		Illegitimate	...	11	8	3	
							Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
Still Births	...	...	...	11	8	3	53.6
Deaths	...	...	...	131	57	74	

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

				Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0	0.0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0	0.0
				—	—
				0	0.0

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births—36.08.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—38.3.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0.00.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—19.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—3.

### Deaths in the Borough.

The number registered in the Borough during the year is 57 males, 74 females.

These figures are altered by inward and outward transfers, thus:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths registered in the area ...	144	116	260
Outward transfers ...	87	46	133
Non-civilian deaths ...	4	—	4
Inward transfers ...	4	4	8
	—	—	—
	57	74	131

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### Laboratory Facilities.

Year by year the value to the Public Health Department and the assistance given by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service becomes more and more obvious. The laboratory is now an essential and vital factor in the maintenance of the public health. I wish to place on record my appreciation of the active and willing co-operation of Doctors Fry and Boissard.

#### Clinic (Maternity and Child Welfare and Education Committees).

The Clinic in Pond Street has continued to be widely used throughout the year.

Clinics are held as follows:—

- (a) Child Welfare Clinic—Mondays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- (b) Ante-Natal Clinic—Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
- (c) Minor Ailment Clinic—Five times a week; School Medical Officer in attendance every Tuesday morning.
- (d) Dental Clinic—Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.; Fridays, 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.
- (e) Ultra Violet Light Clinic—Monday and Thursday morning, as required.



### **Attendances—Welfare Centre.**

No. on register at the end of 1943—207.

No. of new cases under 1 year of age—113.

No. of new cases over 1 year of age—2.

No. of attendances by children under 1 year of age—1,392.

No. of attendances by children between 1 and 5 years of age—254.

Total number of attendances made—1,646.

Average attendances per session—34.14.

No. of attendances by Evacuees (M/CW)—42.

### **Maternity Service.**

Attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic held on Thursday mornings continues to expand, the number of expectant mothers this year being 88 as compared with 61 the former year. These expectant mothers made 293 attendances at the Clinic.

The two beds in the Maternity Ward of the County Infirmary, Carmarthen, earmarked for expectant mothers from the Borough were utilized to the full, the total number of cases who were admitted being 60.

One evacuated expectant mother was admitted to the Amman Valley Cottage Hospital, Glanamman, and one Borough expectant mother was admitted to the Public Assistance Institution, Llanelly, during the year.

### **Nursery School.**

The Nursery School continued to be well attended during the year. The average number of children who attended daily was 15.2. The Medical Officer of the School (Dr. Bryson) carried out regular periodical inspections and in addition treated any child who had not already been immunised.

### **Water Supplies.**

Continuation of chlorination of the water supply to ensure its safety was found to be necessary during the year. The water supply of the town is not adequate in quantity and in considering Post-War Reconstruction Plans I urge the Council to consider the

provision of an adequate water supply (adequate in quality and quantity) a priority ranking equal to that of New Housing. In considering such plans the Council should consider whether a water scheme could not be so constructed that surrounding parts of the Rural District could also obtain a supply from the same source.

### **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

As compared with the previous year a big increase in the number of cases of measles notified occurred, but the number of cases of diphtheria fell. There were no deaths from diphtheria. The value of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory in controlling outbreaks of infectious disease was inestimable and undoubtedly prevented any spread to alarming proportions by the speed in discovering "Carriers" and their segregation.

#### **Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1943.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.		Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	Borough	Evacuees		
Diphtheria ...	5	0	5	0
Scarlet Fever ...	18	3	15	0
Enteric Fever ...	1	0	1	0
Erysipelas ...	3	0	2	0
Smallpox ...	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	2	0	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	0	10	0
Measles ...	125	2	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Immunisation against Diphtheria is being carried out by the Medical Officer of Health at the Clinic, Pond Street, on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m.

The number of children immunised at the Clinic during the year being as follows:—

Children 1—5 years—96.

Children 5—15 years—44.

On December 31st, 1943, the state of immunisation in the Borough was as follows:—

#### **Children aged 5—15 years.**

Number immunised during the year was 44, making a total of 1,315 children immunised, i.e. 93.2%.

#### **Maternity and Child Welfare Children.**

Number immunised during the year was 96, making a total of 349, i.e. 70.5% of the children aged 1—5 years.

#### **Tuberculosis.**

Number of new cases on register during the year 1943 was 15 (7 males, 8 females).

Number of deaths during the year was 9 (4 males, 5 females).

#### **New Cases of, and Mortality from Tuberculosis.**

Age Period in years.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—25	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
25—35	2	4	0	0	0	4	0	0
35—45	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	7	0	1	4	5	0	0

**Rates per 1,000 Population of Notifications and Deaths.**

Year.	Notifications (New Cases).	Deaths.
1938	1.5	0.27
1939	1.8	0.63
1940	1.96	0.76
1941	1.5	1.1
1942	1.6	0.91
1943	1.3	0.79

**Tuberculosis.**

The Public Health Department is very concerned at the lack of housing accommodation for persons suffering from Tuberculosis. Frequently patients after staying in a Sanatorium have to return to accommodation which is overcrowded, inadequately ventilated and lighted, damp and unfit for human habitation. The good that has been accomplished at the Sanatorium is very quickly undone by such bad housing accommodation. I urge the Council to give these people a high priority when the time comes to consider tenants for houses erected at the Council's Housing Estates.

The Government Scheme together with the County Council's Scheme for after care of Tuberculous patients has gone a long way to ameliorate the circumstances of the Tuberculous patient.

**Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.**

- (a) No. of Tuberculin-Tested Licenses in force in Borough—1.
- (b) No. of Accredited Licence holders in Borough—19.
- (c) No. of Tuberculin-Tested Milk Samples taken—72.
- (c) No. of Accredited Milk Samples taken—194.

Samples of Milk taken—19.

No. reported as satisfactory—13.

No. reported as unsatisfactory—6.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

The Chief Inspector, County Council, reports as follows on the work done under the above Act in the area of the Carmarthen Urban District Council during the year:—

### **Milk.**

Number of samples taken—43.

Number certified to be genuine—39.

The remaining four samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be slightly deficient in Milk Fat, but the deficiencies were not considered serious enough to warrant legal proceedings. The vendors were cautioned in each instance.

### **Miscellaneous Articles of Food.**

Number of samples taken (Informal)—20.

Number certified to be genuine—13.

Six samples of miscellaneous articles were reported as being infested with Meal Mite and unfit for human consumption.

One sample of Onion Powder was also unsatisfactory.

Reports on these samples were forwarded to the Food Executive Officer or the Sanitary Inspector for the area.

### **Spirits.**

Six samples of spirits were taken informally, tested by the Sampling Officer and found to be genuine.

One sample of Whisky was taken officially and submitted to the Public Analyst who certified it to be adulterated with water to the extent of 11.5%.

Legal proceedings were instituted, resulting in a fine of £5 with £1 costs being imposed on the vendor.

### **Milk (Special Designations) Order.**

283 samples of milk were taken from producers who had been reported upon adversely by the Milk Advisory Committee of the War Agricultural Committee. 142 were satisfactory, while the remaining 141 were unsatisfactory.

**Meat.**

Throughout the year the abattoir in Carmarthen was used as the central place for the slaughtering of cattle. Mr. Francis, the Sanitary Inspector, has, with the assistance of the Sanitary Inspectors of the Rural District, carried out the inspection of carcasses slaughtered there.

**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.**

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known ...	1202	1873	7045	151
Number Inspected ...	1202	1873	7045	151
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</b>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	21	5	14	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	30	10	7	8
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	4.24%	0.80%	0.3%	0.53%
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ...	1%	0.05%	—	—



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.							No. of Visits.
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Workshops	}	...	...	...	...	...	—
Workplaces		...	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	193

## HOUSING.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.							No. of Visits.
<b>Under Public Health Acts.</b>							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
<b>Under Housing Acts.</b>							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
<b>Overcrowding.</b>							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
<b>Verminous Premises.</b>							
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	70

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	...	26
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	33
Number of times steam disinfectors used	...	...	...	...	58

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

### Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops.

No. of Slaughterhouses in area	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Slaughterhouses visited	...	...	...	...	1
No. of visits made to above Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	386
No. of visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	300
No. of visits to Butchers	...	...	...	...	1530

### Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of producers in area	...	...	...	...	72
No. of retail purveyors in area	...	...	...	...	31
No. of visits to cowsheds	...	...	...	...	75
No. of new cowsheds provided	...	...	...	...	—
No. of cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	...	—

## NOTICES SERVED.

### Under the Housing Acts.

No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of formal notices served	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of formal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil

### Under the Public Health Acts.

No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	23
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	23
No. of formal notices served	...	...	...	...	3
No. of formal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	3

### Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil



## HOUSING.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	161
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	161
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 ...	114
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	114
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	183
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	36

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	26
---	----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

#### A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners ...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	26
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners ...	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

#### C.—Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

D.—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms<br>in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms<br>in respect of which Closing Orders were determined,<br>the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit | ... | Nil |

**4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING.**

- |   |        |     |
|---|--------|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the<br>year       | ... .. | 87  |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein                                | ... .. | 89  |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein                                | ... .. | 419 |
| (b) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported<br>during the year | ... .. | 17  |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during<br>the year.    | ... .. | 2   |



